

# Northern Virginia Gang Task Force

LOUDOUN • LEESBURG • FAIRFAX • HERNDON • PRINCE WILLIAM • MANASSAS CITY  
MANASSAS PARK • FAIRFAX CITY • FALLS CHURCH • ALEXANDRIA  
VIENNA • DUMFRIES • ARLINGTON • WARRENTON • FAUQUIER  
VIRGINIA STATE POLICE • F.B.I. • A.T.F. • I.C.E.



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## Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force

### Background

- The Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force was formed in 2003 as a multi-jurisdictional partnership to provide a coordinated law enforcement and public information effort to combat gang activity in Northern Virginia. The members of the task force include the chief law enforcement officers from each jurisdiction and state and federal law enforcement partners representing enforcement efforts. Court service unit directors and intervention coordinators represent prevention/intervention efforts.
- Through the support of U.S. Rep. Frank R. Wolf, of Virginia's 10th Congressional District, the U.S. Congress has funded the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force since 2003 as part of the U.S. Department of Justice's Appropriations Bill.
- The task force includes membership from the jurisdictions of: Fairfax County ♦ Town of Herndon ♦ Town of Leesburg ♦ Loudoun County ♦ City of Manassas ♦ City of Manassas Park ♦ Prince William County ♦ City of Alexandria ♦ Arlington County ♦ Town of Dumfries ♦ City of Fairfax ♦ City of Falls Church ♦ Town of Vienna ♦ Town of Warrenton ♦ Fauquier County.

The task force also includes representatives from: Virginia State Police ♦ Federal Bureau of Investigation ♦ U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms ♦ U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

- The goals of the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force encompass a collaborative gang prevention effort focused on enforcement, education and intervention/prevention, which is based on a model from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.
  - Enforcement — Develop and share intelligence while using a coordinated response to gang activity and crimes and provide a common level of enforcement across the region. The multi-jurisdictional approach no longer restricts police response by boundaries. Prosecution is another important element, and the NVRGTF coordinates activities with federal and local prosecutors, particularly on the prosecution of serious criminal gang offenders.
  - Education — Projects include educational training and outreach materials in English and Spanish, including PSAs, training videos, brochures and posters for distribution to community groups, schools, police departments and other criminal justice system staff, area recreation leaders and parents. Other programs include mentoring after-school programs and summer camps.

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- Intervention/prevention — Five regional intervention coordinators provide a collaborative point of contact for gang-related intervention programs and plans.

The coordinators are:

- Robert Bermingham, Gang Prevention Coordinator  
Fairfax County, 703-246-2396
- Robert Vilchez, Gang Task Force Coordinator  
Arlington County/City of Falls Church, 703-228-4600
- Mike Mackey, Gang Prevention and Intervention Coordinator  
City of Alexandria, 703-838-4144
- Richard Buchholz, Gang Response Intervention Team Coordinator  
Prince William County, Manassas and Manassas Park, 703-792-5392
- Ed Ryan, Gang Response Intervention Team Coordinator  
Loudoun County, 703-777-0241

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